



CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION

Alabama Agriculture Counts!!



BILL WEAVER, DIRECTOR
USDA/NASS ALABAMA FIELD OFFICE

JOHN McMILLAN, COMMISSIONER
ALABAMA DEPT. OF AG. AND INDUSTRIES

PO Box 240578, Montgomery, AL 36124-0578

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Issue 2

Pastures and Livestock in Mostly Good Condition

Data tables reflect the week ending: **April 10, 2011**

CROP PROGRESS

Crop	This Week	Last Week	2010	5-Yr Avg.
	Percent			
Corn Planted	46	30	45	49
Corn Emerged	25	11	7	21
Cotton Planted	0	0	1	1

N/A =Not Available

CROP / LIVESTOCK CONDITION

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc.
	Percent				
Corn	0	0	45	55	0
Winter Wheat	0	1	13	75	11
Livestock	0	4	25	66	5
Pasture & Range	3	5	28	58	6

TOP SOIL MOISTURE

	Days Suitable	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
		Percent			
District 10	3.3	0	1	56	43
District 20	3.1	0	0	47	53
District 30	3.3	0	15	70	15
District 40	5.8	0	5	85	11
District 50	5.9	11	26	59	4
District 60	4.9	2	21	63	14
State: Current Week	4.1	1	7	60	32
State: Previous	3.1	2	12	54	32

EXTENSION/FSA COMMENTS:

General: Cathy Blackburn, Executive Director in the Chambers County FSA office, noted that producers are slowly beginning to break ground for planting, with temperatures still on the cool side. James Miles, in the Mobile County extension office, stated that ryegrass hay is still being harvested. He added that Mobile County has not received the rain that counties to the north of them have received, yet vegetable areas are being worked and planted. Josh Ford at the Lauderdale County FSA office stated that fair weather last week allowed for spraying activities and corn planting progress, although the ground is still very wet.

Daytime highs for the week ranged from 90 degrees in Huntsville and Muscle Shoals, to 81 degrees in Mobile.

Overnight lows for most locations ranged from the mid thirties to low forties.

Small Grains: The wheat crop is rated in mostly good condition throughout Alabama. James Jones, Jr., Henry County Extension Coordinator noted that small grains in his area received some much needed rainfall. Mr. Ford added that the wheat crop looks good in Lauderdale County, although Tim Malone, FSA County Executive Director in Marion County had one producer report a partial failure of his wheat crop.

Corn/Cotton/Peanut/Soybeans: Corn planting and emergence is progressing at a near normal rate across Alabama. Don Moore, Director of the Alabama Ag Experiment Station in Prattville, stated that the surplus rainfall has hindered corn planting there, but predicted weather should allow for farmers to finish. He added that cotton planting will begin later into April when soil temperatures rise and that soybean plantings will follow if soil moisture remains adequate. Mr. Jones, Jr., in Henry County, noted that land preparations for planting are proceeding nicely and that he expects cotton plantings to begin next week. Mr. Malone in Marion County added that corn plantings will pick up as soon as their fields dry out.

Pasture/Hay/Livestock: According to Brenda Glover, Regional Extension Agent in Hale County, pastures and cattle are in good condition. Clarke County Extension Coordinator, James Tucker, commented that rains are helping with the green-up of pasture and hayfields. In Covington County, Extension Coordinator, Charles Simon noted that a good rain was received and that winter grazing was doing very well. Mr. Malone stated that the pastures are growing and look good at the present time and that hay producers will start to apply fertilizer to fields once they dry out. In Clay County, FSA Executive Director, Carol Gay noted that livestock production appears to be reducing due to high prices at the stockyards. Shelby County Regional Extension Agent, Jack Tatum, mentioned that those with winter grazing pastures are in good shape, but those with bahia or bermuda fields, not enough growth has occurred to provide suitable grazing for cattle with calves. Henry Dorough, Regional Extension Agent in Talladega County, said that the warm weather and recent rains have had a positive impact on spring forage growth in the region. However, wet conditions have hampered some operations from controlling winter weeds.

To Report Recipients:

I want to thank all those producers who commented on the importance of precipitation and temperature data when making farming decisions. As a result of your feedback, I contacted John Christy, the State Climatologist in Alabama, who is assisting this office in developing a precipitation and temperature table using public information. And I encourage you, our data users, to continuing providing comments and suggestions to help in this evolving process.

Bill Weaver

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USDA/National Agricultural Statistics Service
Director, Alabama Field Office

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